

## **EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

### **Meeting of July 7, 2010**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

#### **MEMBERS (ECCAB)**

**Present:** Marva Deskins (Chair); David M. Kochanski, Esq (Vice Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Eric G. Luedtke (Parliamentarian); Vanessa E. Ali; Thomas J. Aylward; Kim Bobola, Ph.D; Sally Colgan; Peter Myo Khin; Allan Mulligan; Leonard E. Newman; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.; Bill Strassberger; Odessa Shannon; Saschane M. Stephenson; Benoy Thomas.

**Absent:** G. Stanley Doore; Ned B. Williams

**STAFF (EMRSC):** Joy Nurmi (Director); Nona Watson (Community Development Manager) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

#### **GUESTS:**

Barbara Clark (Clinical Director, Mobile Medical Care); Tawana Wheeler (The People's Community and Wellness Clinic (TPCWC)); Polly Ganz (Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network (EMEAN)); David Shaw (Greater Colesville Citizens Association (GCCA)); Pam Saul (Staff, Sen. Rona Kramer; District 14, Montgomery County); Mark Pharoh (Chair, Eastern County Recreation Advisory Board); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Kimberly Campbell, Ph.D. (Resident and Former ECCAB member); Christian Brown (Community Member); Cameron Brown (Community Member); Lucretia Bartley (President, Green Castle Manor II); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office)

#### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

**Chair Marva Deskins** – Welcomed everyone and presided over the meeting. The guests were asked to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Chair Marva Deskins**– announced presentations by East County Non Profit Organizations – Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network, The People's Community and Wellness Church and Mobile Med.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Polly Ganz, Director, Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network (EMEAN)

Thanked the board for the invitation. The core mission of EMEAN is to provide housing, utility, or prescription assistance to families in crisis. EMEAN will refer customers to other programs/ agencies, as appropriate. EMEAN's approach is customer-centered - it seeks to empower families towards self-sufficiency. Referrals for emergency services are made through Montgomery County Health and Human Services. EMEAN assist residents that live in Montgomery County's zip codes 20903, 20904, 20905, 20866, and 20868. Families in crisis must first apply to DHHS and a referral will be sent to EMEAN. Housing and utility assistance requires a referral from DHHS.

Zip code 20904 has the highest need of emergency services. EMEAN receives County, State and Federal grants such as Baltimore Community Foundations, Carl Freeman Foundation, FACES, Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Coalition (EAC). Most staff members are volunteers from supporting congregations such as Cedar Ridge Community Church; Church of the Resurrection; Clifton Park Baptist Church; Colesville United Methodist Church, etc.

EMEAN Assistance – After verifying needs, available resources, and development of a workable plan, EMEAN may supplement applicant's funds (depending on availability of EMEAN's funds) – to prevent eviction/foreclosure, to prevent utility shut off and to provide RX Assistance. The emergency assistance can only be provided one time within a twelve-month period.

Location: Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network (EMEAN) services are provided (with a preference “*by appointment only*”) at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on Monday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. All inquiries should be directed to EMEAN at 301-879-2688. Their other office is at the Colesville Center but because of lack of public transportation to the Colesville Center, it was necessary to make their office more accessible to the families they serve.

### 2. Tawanna Wheeler, Director, The Peoples Community and Wellness Clinic (TPCWC)

Thanked the board for the invitation. TPCWC has been operational in East County since August 2002. Mission is to provide primary, ambulatory quality health care to adults in Montgomery County, Maryland – especially of eastern Montgomery County – who are unable to afford private health care and have no health insurance. TPCWC is co-sponsored by Montgomery County Government and The People's Community Baptist Church of Silver Spring, MD Clinical Services are provided to uninsured adults (ages 19 to 120) who meet low-income guidelines, are ineligible for government-assisted health care, and can demonstrate that they do not have personal assets, financial reserves, or sufficient family resources to support their own medical care.

Services of TPCWC include the following: *Care for acute illness; Care for chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma; Routine physical examinations; Laboratory tests to include HIV screening; Medications, while available; Nutrition and diabetes management counseling; Lifestyle management counseling; Mental Health Counseling.* TPCWC will provide referrals to medical specialist for primary clinical services not offered onsite.

TPCWC is open for health care services; located at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center,

the clinic operates Monday thru Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm by appointment only. Patients are seen from 9:30 am until 4:30 pm. A mandatory \$10 co-pay is assessed for each office visit and voluntary financial contributions from patients will continue to operate and provide free services. The clinic specializes in specialty care. Women's clinic is offered on first Thursday; run by volunteers, gynecologist and nurse practitioners. Men's clinic is offered on the second Thursday.

The clinic collaborates with Holy Cross Hospital. The clinic is funded by TPCWC Clinic and Montgomery County Government as well as other grant programs. The clinic is glad to operate in East County they are increasing their hours of operation. Currently, the clinic has three women practitioners and one physical assistant until mid August. On an average, 40-45 patients are seen per week. Screening of Patients – Proof of Montgomery County Residency (up to 6 months); Income Tax Returns, unemployment certificate, etc.

### **3. Barbara Clark, Clinical Director, Mobile Med Care, Inc.**

For over forty years, the mission of MobileMed's volunteers, supporters and staff has been to provide quality health care to the uninsured, low income, working poor and homeless in Montgomery County. Mobile Med believes that free or low-cost medical care can and should be universally delivered in a respectful, competent and compassionate manner to anyone in need. To that end, every effort is made to ensure patient-friendly and responsive delivery systems that enhance patient independence and dignity. MobileMed's goal is to reduce barriers to receiving health care, such as long waiting times for appointments, providers who don't understand cultural issues, paperwork that is difficult to understand, and plans of care that are difficult to implement due to high costs or other issues.

The volunteers and staff of MobileMed currently serve more than 7,000 of our community's most vulnerable and isolated residents. Its patients are the uninsured, homeless, unemployed, political refugees, victims of torture and immigrants from throughout the world. Hailing from more than 100 countries, many suffer from one or more chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular problems, obesity, high cholesterol, hepatitis, asthma, assorted allergies, orthopedic disabilities and cancer. All struggle with the reality of a community whose need for quality health care exceeds its capacity to deliver.

The clinical staff is diverse and speaks French, Spanish, Farsi, Chinese and other languages. Mobile Med thanks Adventist Health Care (both Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist Hospital), the Archdiocese of Washington, Project Access and Suburban Hospital, since these organizations provide laboratory work and testing, diagnostic radiology procedures, and specialty care. These services are provided at free or low-cost to the patients.

Twenty-three (23) health clinics are located throughout Montgomery County, and each clinic operates at regularly scheduled times in churches, government buildings and public housing facilities. Clinics offer both appointment and walk-in service.

A walk-in Clinic is offered every Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center. All patients who arrive at the beginning of the clinic session will be assessed by the Clinic Nurse. Mobile Med makes every effort to see all walk-in patients, depending upon the volume of people seeking care on a particular day. Patients will be seen by the provider in an order based upon medical need; the need for and availability of an interpreter and/or order of arrival.

**Eric G. Luedtke** – briefed members on the Parliamentary procedures and points of order.

**Chair Deskins**– Thanked the speakers for their presentations

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of June 2, 2010.

**[July 7<sup>th</sup> 2010-1]** A motion to approve the minutes of June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010. The motion was moved by David Kochanski; seconded by Leonard Newman and unanimously approved.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Joy Nurmi announced:

- IDA Sector Meeting is scheduled on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the White Oak Library. One of the most effective ways to fight crime is to get involved in crime prevention. Please come and join us, and talk with your Police Officers. We are interested in hearing your views and concerns about your community.
- Planners from Park and Planning held an Open house at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. Over 60 people attended to learn more about a master plan that will support an expanding federal agency and a growing biosciences industry in eastern Montgomery County.
- Apartment Managers Meeting – hosted by the Center was very successful. The East County apartment managers received information on how to connect their tenants to County HHS Services, such as emergency rental assistance. Luncheon was provided by the Donaldson Group.
- Potties in Parks – The County Executive's staff, Regional Services Centers and Council members Valerie Ervin, Marc Elrich, Nancy Navarro and Duchy Trachtenberg contacted and urged the Parks Department to retain port-a-potties in Parks. They are encouraging sponsorships to help fund this service.

Kristin O' Connor, Senior Planner, M-NCPPC – updated the board on the East County Science Center Master Plan Open House held at the Center. The turnout was good, FDA, Percontee, Adelphi, Lab Quest, Adventist Health Care, County Department of Transportation and many more attended.

Joy Nurmi – introduced Nona Watson, Community Development Manager of the Eastern Montgomery RSC, to the Board.

Nona Watson – thanked the board for the welcome, and said she looks forward to working with the Center, East County Board and reaching out to the community.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Announcements by Vice Chair Marva Deskins:

Board Retreat – A mini Outreach Retreat is scheduled in September. Will email members asking what time works best.

Annual Report 2009-2010 – Anthony Ramirez will be taking the lead again this year in drafting the report. Committee chairs are asked to email reports to Anthony.

Burtonsville Day Planning Committee meeting - members are asked to volunteer. Allan Mulligan, Sally Colgan and Anthony Ramirez will provide a report later.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Councilmember Mark Elrich's office:**

Mara Parker announced:

- The County received a triple "AAA" bond rating, and was taken off the watch list.
- A Public Hearing on Off-Street Parking is scheduled on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Members are asked to testify, if interested.
- PHED Committee – is on recess July 29<sup>th</sup> until mid-September.

Saschane M. Stephenson – Montgomery Council Committees will discuss Merits of Possible Mental Health Court on Monday, July 19, Worksession will focus on the possibility of establishing the first Mental Health Court in the County.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Services Committee: Chair Anthony Ramirez**

The Services Committee is working on sponsoring a Health Fair, and has established contacts with the several health organizations, including Washington Adventist Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, Kaiser Permanente. The health fair will provide seminars on diabetes, blood pressure and much more.

### **Outreach Committee: Alfreda H. Payne, Chair**

No Report. Asked to share list of board members assigned to sub-committees.

Anjoo Chohda- printed and distributed the report to the members.

### **Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair**

The committee thinks they should look at ZTA 10-07, RNC zones - Off-Street Parking, which would not allow public institutions in residential zones with parking for more than 50 vehicles unless the entrance to the parking is located within 500 feet of an arterial road or a road at least 4 lanes wide.

Star Pointe Plaza – Bob Sylwester is concerned that the preliminary plan will allow too much traffic.

**[July 7<sup>th</sup> 2010-2]** A motion for the Economic Development Committee to consider a position on ZTA 10-07 was proposed. The motion was moved and seconded and unanimously approved.

**[July 7<sup>th</sup> 2010-3]** A motion for the Economic Development Committee to look into Traffic Safety on 198 east and 29 at Dino Drive was proposed. The motion was moved and seconded and unanimously approved.

## OLD BUSINESS

Alfreda H. Payne – welcomed the new board chair and thanked Bill Strassberger, former board chair for his services.

## NEW BUSINESS

Eric G. Luedtke – asked board to pass a Motion at the next meeting to ask the County to place speed cameras on Robey Road.

Joy Nurmi – will check whether this has already been requested and will report at the September meeting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Odessa Shannon – pointed out her correct email address.

Alfreda Payne – requested that Outreach Committee meet at 7:30 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday's each month instead of 7:00 p.m. Members agreed.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marva Deskins- passed a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**[July 7<sup>th</sup> 2010-4]**A motion to adjourn the meeting of July 7<sup>th</sup> 2010 was passed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for September 1, 2010.**

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **Director's Report – July 2010**

#### **WSSC Voluntary Water Restrictions**

I was on an Emergency Operations Center conference call at 8 a.m. today for an update on the water main repairs. WSSC reported that for now, the water pressure in the system is fine, and they will learn more today about whether the restrictions are working. WSSC worked through the evening and learned that the pipe is indeed compromised. The exact timeline for the repairs is not known at this time and residents can assume that the four-day time frame announced earlier is still accurate.

#### **IDA Sector Meeting – July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the White Oak Library**

One of the most effective ways to fight crime in your community is to get involved in crime prevention. Recently, many residents of the East County have done just that by connecting with police, neighbors and business owners at IDA Sector meetings sponsored by the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center and Third District Police. IDA Sector and Henry Sector are the police beats that includes Burtonsville, Briggs Chaney, Calverton, White Oak and Hillandale.

Please come and join us, and talk with your Police officers. We are interested in hearing your views and concerns about your community.

Being vigilant about who is in your neighborhood and getting to know your neighbors, plays an important role in helping police and making you and your family safer.

#### **East County Science Center Master Plan Open House**

Planners from Park and Planning held an Open house at the East County Regional Center on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Over 60 people attended to learn more about a master plan that will support an expanding federal agency and a growing biosciences industry in eastern Montgomery County. Representatives from Percontee and Adventist Health Care, FDA, and the Army Lab at Adelphi attended. The ECCAB will hear from P&P at our July meeting about community input.

The East County Science Center Master Plan will create a vision for an expanded Cherry Hill Employment Area with the goal of creating a mixed-use life sciences center that builds upon the presence of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) campus in White Oak. It is intended to address the land use, urban design and environmental issues. It also will address the need for mobility options in the area.

The area Master Plan area is expected to be home to a significant cluster of life science industries. It is home to the Federal Research Campus, which includes FDA, and is expected to house the relocated Washington Adventist Hospital, a potential East County Science and Technology Center on County-owned land known as Site 2 (formerly belonging to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission), and a potential new community on the Percontee property. The new plan will set a new vision and guide future growth in the area by amending the 1997 White Oak and Fairland Master Plans.

The plan will address planning issues related to the future growth of the Cherry Hill Employment area. The proposed master plan will make recommendations for a science center that is functional, attractive, safe and highly accessible by:

- Providing housing and amenities to complement existing and future employment activities
- Creating mixed-used, walkable development nodes served by transit
- Addressing the capacity of roads, schools and other public facilities
- Creating public open space
- Protecting environmental resources in the watershed

### **Apartment Managers Meeting**

The East County Regional Center hosted a very successful luncheon meeting of East County apartment managers to connect their tenants to County HHS Services, such as emergency rental assistance and other services. Approximately 35 managers attended. Thanks to the Donaldson Group for providing lunch.

### **Potties in Parks**

The ECRSC learned recently that the Parks Department was planning on eliminating port-a-potties in Parks. The County Executive's staff, Regional Service Centers and Councilmembers Ervin, Navarro, Elrich and Trachtenberg all contacted the Parks Department and urged them to retain this service (Councilmembers Ervin and Navarro sent a letter to the Parks Department). Parks has decided to retain the port-a-potties until at least August 1<sup>st</sup>. They are encouraging sponsorships to help fund this service.